

## Meeting of the St Paul Parish Council

May 23, 2016

### **Present:**

*Ex officio:* Fr Bill Kelly, Fr Mark Murphy, John Robinson

*Elected members :* Chris Cassani, Paul Haley, Leslie McCarthy

Bill Sullivan, Angela Jones, Carlos Diaz and Jill Fallon

*Appointed:* Richard Peisch

### **Not present:**

*Elected members:* Martin Etcheverry, Anita Wronski

*Appointed:* Jim Perrine, Chair of the Finance Committee. Currently there are no representatives for the undergraduate and graduate students.

The Parish Council gave a warm welcome to our new pastor Father William Kelly who opened the meeting with a prayer.

### **Pastor's Report**

1. *Parish Elections.* Traditionally elections for parish council members are held in May. However, the current board has not met since last December when Fr. Drea announced that he would be moving to a new parish. Fr. Bill Kelly, noting that the current council works very well together, says as a new pastor he has some leeway and would prefer the current council to stay intact until he gets settled. He will announce new elections sometime next year, possibly in the fall for those members who would like to cycle out of their duties now completing their three year term. Soon, however, he will appoint new representatives for the undergraduate and graduate students.
2. *Lighting.* New temporary lighting is up on the columns so the electrical system in the ceiling (which dates from 1924) can be disconnected, removed and then replaced. It will be dark for possibly several months.
3. *Library.* Fr. Kelly was sad when he saw the state of the reading room in the lower church with a large percentage of the books in boxes and said, "Space issues are very serious and can be contentious." He is re-opening the decision about the library and will definitely have a library committee of six to eight moving by the fall.
4. *Phase IV of Disciples in Mission.* Beginning June 1, St Paul's enters the 'collaborative phase' even though we will be a stand-alone parish. Our challenge will be to build on the synergy of our 3 parts: parish, choir school and Catholic center to share better the Good News of Jesus Christ. Priests, staff, Parish Council, Finance Committee and then the parish will be trained in becoming more effective evangelists. This last phase will culminate in a pastoral plan in about a year and a half. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, all in the parish are

invited to a meeting to discuss this last phase from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in DiGiovanni Hall.

### **Ministry to the Sick and Elderly**

While remarking on the concern and care by St. Paul parishioners for their sick and elderly, Fr Kelly was surprised there was no overall coordinator. He plans to remedy that by seeking a volunteer or hiring a coordinator for about 15 hours a week to better outreach and increased efficiency.

### **Oktoberfest**

The increasingly popular Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, following the 5 pm Vigil Mass. Chris Cassini described as ‘friend-raising’ and will seek two sponsors to cover costs so the event will break even.

### **Summer Masses in DiGiovanni**

Fr. Kelly raised the issues surrounding making a summer chapel out of the gym: the amount of time and effort for set up and transfer of items for Mass, including a piano and all music books; the fact that not all Masses are moved but only some; the present poor state of the sound system in DiGiovanni; the regular confusion of visitors and even regulars finding their way to DiGiovanni for Mass; a less beautiful space than the church; and finally, the cost of running the AC unit. Some council members supported the present DiGiovanni use, while others thought it is not effective. Suggestions were made that brevity of Mass can be accomplished on very hot days, and perhaps the use of fans and open windows, or using the lower church, might be explored. Fr. Kelly will continue to seek input.

### **Mass Schedule on Holy Days of Obligation**

After consultation with Fr. Murphy and Fr. Salzmann and the Parish council, Fr. Kelly has decided that we will eliminate the 5:15 PM Vigil Mass before a Holy Day of Obligation because it is poorly attended. Instead we will add an evening Mass at 7:00PM on the Holy Day itself along with the 8:00AM and 12:10 PM Masses.

The Parish Council concluded business with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Fallon